My French Knowledge Organiser How Can I Use It?

Knowledge organisers are useful tools when it comes to learning and recalling information. You may have been given knowledge organisers across a range of subjects. Here are some ideas for how you might use your French knowledge organiser in different ways to help you learn.

Key Ideas

- This is a list of all the key ideas on the topic – use it as a checklist and check off the ones you can talk and write about.
- You could also colour-code the key ideas using three colours: 'I can confidently talk/write about this one', 'I can talk/write a bit about this one' and 'I need to work on this one'.

Key Vocabulary

- Test your friends – test each other on the meaning of each word. You could write the words out on separate cards, with the meaning on the back.
- Play Bingo – using a blank grid, choose French words from the key vocabulary and get a friend or your teacher to read out an English word from the list. See how long it takes for you to match a line.
- Link it! Draw a mind map or a Venn diagram to show links between words.
- Practise forming the plural form of nouns.
- Can you work out the different forms of each adjective? Try pairing them with a noun.

Key Phrases

- These are linked to the key ideas presented at the top of your knowledge organiser – learn them and then try adapting them by changing/adding words to create a new idea relevant to the topic.
- Create a set of double-sided cards with the French on one side and the English on the other side and use these to test yourself – you could also work with a partner.
- Copy each key phrase onto a strip of paper and then cut it out into several chunks – can you piece the sentence back together in the right order?

Key Questions

- This is a selection of exam-type questions on the topic – can you answer them?
- Can you think of other questions you may be asked on this topic?
- Create a set of cards containing the questions on one side and bullet points of ideas and vocabulary on the other side to help you practise answering them – why not work with a partner?
- Create a mind-map for each question.

False Friends

- These words look and sound similar to an English word but are misleading as they have a different meaning – make sure you learn them.

Useful Grammatical Structures

- Use these recommended grammatical structures in your answers to the key questions on the topic – create at least one sentence with each structure.
- Make a set of cards containing the grammatical structures suggested - working with a partner or in a group, place the cards face down in a pile, take turns to pick one and make a sentence that contains this structure and relates to the topic.

More Advanced Grammatical Structures

- Are you aiming for the top marks and looking to impress the examiner? Try incorporating some of these more complex structures in your answers to the key questions on the topic – create at least one sentence with each structure.
- Make a set of cards containing the grammatical structures suggested – working with a partner or in a group, place the cards face down in a pile, take turns to pick one and make a sentence that contains this structure and relates to the topic.

Tricky Pronunciation

- Ask your teacher/language assistant (if you are lucky enough to have one in your school) to help. Use your phone to record them saying this selection of carefully picked words, then record yourself saying them – how does it compare?
- Create your own list of important words that you really want to pronounce correctly and follow the same process as above.

- You could also use highlighters to colour-code tricky parts of the word e.g. silent letters, stressed syllables, etc.

Tricky Spelling

- Use 'look, cover, write, check' to help you learn this selection of carefully picked words from this topic.

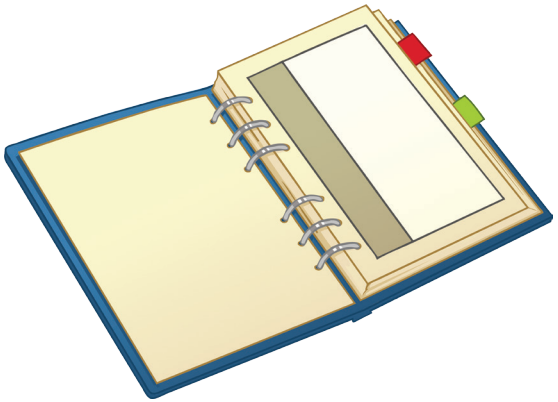
- Create your own list of tricky words that you really want to spell correctly and use the same method to learn them.
- Use highlighters to colour-code tricky parts of the word e.g. silent letters, accents, double consonants, tricky sequence of vowels/ consonants etc.
- You could also use mnemonics to help you.

Idiomatic Expressions

- Your knowledge organiser may contain a selection of idiomatic expressions relevant to the topic. Learn them and use them in your work to sound like a native and impress the examiner.

Partner Pick

- Ask a partner to close their eyes and place their finger somewhere on the knowledge organiser – you have to try and tell them as much information as possible about that section of the knowledge organiser.

Group It!

- Think about all the information on the knowledge organiser – can you group it according to how well you know it?
- Put the things you find hardest to remember at the top and the things you know best at the bottom.
- You could also colour-code it using three colours: 'I know it', 'I almost know it' and 'I need to know it better'.